

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00501 121804Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----085100 121812Z /42

O P 121530Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5961
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0501

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET, UR
SUBJ: SIAD ASSERTS WITHDRAWAL PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY; REJECTS US
MILITARY ATTACHE

REF: STATE 063461
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1. PRESIDENT SIAD RECEIVED ME THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 12, AT 1230Z
AND I WENT OVER CAREFULLY WITH HIM THE POINTS OF REFTEL. HE
RESPONDED POINT BY POINT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES: ALL SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY UNITS
HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO WITHDRAW, AND ON BALANCE THE WITH-

DRAWAL IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. UNITS IN THE NORTH ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO SOME BOMBARDMENT IN THE FRONTIER AREAS. IT IS NOT CLEAR YET WHETHER THIS IS THE PRELIMINARY TO A FURTHER MECHANIZED ATTACK WHICH WE COULD NOT SUCCESSFULLY RESIST, BUT IT MAY NOT BE SINCE THE BOMBARDMENT IS RATHER DESULTORY. IN THE CENTER THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS HAVE SLOWED THEIR DRIVE AFTER TAKING DAGABUR. UNITS IN THE SOUTH CONSEQUENTLY ARE HAVING NO PROBLEM EXFILTRATING THEMSELVES. NO ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED OF THE KENYANS OR ANYONE ELSE TO BRING THESE FORCES OUT. THEY ARE MOVING BACK WITH THEIR EQUIPMENT IN TACT.

(2) RESISTANCE BY GUERRILLA UNITS: THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER THE "LIBERATION FORCES" WHICH REMAIN BEHIND IN THE OGADEN. IF ATTACKED THEY WILL FIGHT, BUT THEY WILL ALSO KNOW HOW TO KEEP OUT OF THE WAY OF THE MECHANIZED FORCES. THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF THE ETHIOPIANS, AND NO FEAR OF RE-TRIBUTION. SOMALIA HAS ALWAYS RESPECTED DJIBOUTI.

(3) US MILITARY ATTACHE: SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO DISPOSITION TO HELP SOMALIA IN A MILITARY WAY THERE IS REALLY NO NEED FOR A MILITARY ATTACHE.

(4) SELF DETERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL: SOMALIA HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE WAS NEVER ANY EXPECTATION THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD NOT ADD CONDITIONS. SELF DETERMINATION REMAINS THE GOAL OF THE WESTERN SOMALI PEOPLE. OUR PUBLIC SECRET

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STATEMENTS REFLECT THIS TRUTH.

(5) WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS: NOW THAT THE SOVIETS, CUBANS, EAST GERMANS, AND SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR PURPOSE, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO STAY. MIND YOU, I DO NOT THINK THEY WILL LEAVE. THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION IF THEY WERE TO STAY ON AS TEACHERS AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS, BUT PERHAPS THEY HAVE OTHER THINGS IN MIND.

2. IN NO HURRY TO END THE SESSION, SIAD THEN TURNED TO OTHER TOPICS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE UNITED STATES PROCLIVITY TO ADD CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. YOU ASKED US TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, HE SAID, AND WE AGREED. THEN YOU ANNOUNCE THAT NO HELP WILL BE GIVEN TO SOMALI UNLESS IT MAKES A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. AMERICAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HE SAID, HAVE FOLLOWED ME LIKE A SHADOW WHEREVER I WENT SEEKING ASSISTANCE. YOUR AMBASSADOR WAS ALWAYS ON THE SCENE BEFORE ME TO REMIND MY HOST THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE SOMALIA ANY ASSISTANCE WITHOUT FUS APPROVAL, AND THE INEVITABLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ALWAYS CAME FROM WASHINGTON. SIAD OBSERVED HE FELT THE US DID NOT REALLY WANT SOMALI FRIENDSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE STILL HAD HOPES AND WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT CONCLUSION

ERRONEOUS. I REMINDED SIAD THAT THE US HAS MANIFESTED ITS FRIENDSHIP IN PRACTICAL WAYS THAT WE WERE A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED, AND THAT ANY ARMS TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATED. I SAID I HAD SOUGHT FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON OUR ARMS POLICY (MOGADISCIO 0479), AND STRESSED THAT WE HAD TAKEN IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC STEPS TO FACILITATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS ARMY IN THE OGADEN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE AREA.

3. SIAD SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN, OR UN ACTION. IF THE SOVIETS WITHDREW, HE SAID, SOMALIA WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS. IF IT WERE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO STEP DOWN IN THE INTEREST OF SOMALIA, HE WOULD DO THAT TOO. BUT NO ONE SHOULD DOUBT THE UNITY OF SOMALIA, HE SAID, AND WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME,
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NEEDS MY BLESSINGS AND SUPPORT. THE PEOPLE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW COMMUNISTS, WILL FOLLOW THE MAN I DESIGNATE.

4. COMMENT: THE SOMALI LEADER WAS RELAXED THROUGHOUT THE HOUR AND A HALF MEETING IN HIS GARDEN. HE REPEATED MANY OF THE FAMILIAR POINTS HE HAS MADE ABOUT SOVIET DESIGNS AND AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE, BUT WITH NO PARTICULAR VEHEMENCE. HE SEEMED GENUINELY PERPLEXED THAT WE HAD FAILED TO RESPOND TO HIS AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW, BUT HIS MOOD WAS MUCH MORE OF RESIGNATION THAN ANGER. HE WAS, HOWEVER, IMPERVIOUS TO ARGUMENTS THAT CERTAIN STEPS PROPOSED--THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MILITARY ATTACHE TO SOMALIA--AND OTHER MEASURES WERE LOGICAL FORERUNNERS OF ANY COOPERATION AND AS MUCH IN SOMALIA'S INTEREST AS OUR OWN.
LOUGHRAN

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